

OPTIMAL DESIGN OF PASSIVE POWER FILTERS USING GENETIC
ALGORITHM

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To My Parents

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ABSTRACT

Recent advances in the field of power electronic technology and growing and wide-spread uses of nonlinear loads are responsible for the generation of the harmonics in the power system; this significantly degrades the power quality. One of the most common methods to reduce harmonic distortion is to use the passive filters. The objective of this research is to develop a system with three-phase uncontrolled rectifier for harmonic analysis and to design an optimal harmonic passive filter. Since the applications of “artificial intelligence” has been increased to find the practical solutions for the recent developments in engineering and technology. Therefore, it has been decided to apply genetic algorithm for the optimization of passive filter design. In order to fulfil the objectives, optimum passive power filters are designed using MATLAB software. The optimal filter improves the system performance by reducing the harmonic distortion which complies with the standard limits.

ABSTRAK

Kemajuan terkini dalam bidang teknologi elektronik kuasa dan penggunaan lebih banyak beban tidak linear menyumbang kepada penjanaan harmonik dalam sistem kuasa; ini dengan ketara merendahkan kualiti kuasa. Salah satu kaedah yang paling biasa untuk mengurangkan herotan harmonik adalah dengan menggunakan penapis pasif. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan satu sistem tiga fasa penerus terkawal bertujuan untuk menganalisa harmonik dan untuk merekabentuk penapis harmonik pasif yang optimum. Kemajuan aplikasi "kepentaran buatan" telah menyumbang kepada penyelesaian yang praktikal dalam perkembangan terkini bidang kejuruteraan dan teknologi. Oleh itu, algoritma genetik telah digunakan untuk pengoptimuman rekabentuk penapis pasif. Dalam usaha untuk memenuhi objektif, penapis kuasa pasif yang optimum direkabentuk dengan menggunakan perisian MATLAB. Penapis optimum dapat meningkatkan prestasi sistem dengan mengurangkan herotan harmonik yang mematuhi had piawai.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	-	Alternating Current
BJT	-	Bipolar Junction Transistor
DC	-	Direct Current
DSP	-	Digital Signal Processing
EMI	-	Electromagnetic Interference
FET	-	Field effect Transistor
GA	-	Genetic Algorithm
HPF	-	Hybrid Passive Filter
HVDC	-	High Voltage Direct Current
MOSFET	-	Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field effect Transistor
PCC	-	Point of Common Coupling
PCs	-	Personal Computers
PPF	-	Passive Power Filters
PSO	-	Particle Swarm Algorithm
PWM	-	Pulse Width Modulation
SVC	-	Static Var Compensator
TCR	-	Thyristor Controlled Reactor
TDD	-	Total Demand Distortion
THD	-	Total Harmonic Distortion
THDi	-	Total Harmonic Distortion in Current
THDv	-	Total Harmonic Distortion in Voltage
UPS	-	Uninterruptable Power Supply

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Our modern civilization is very closely related to utilization of the electrical power served by the generation, transmission and distribution. For the proper system performance, it is imperative to ensure that the system voltages and currents that are perfectly sinusoidal in nature. When the loads consisting of inductances, capacitances and resistances are combined in such a way that sine wave is preserved then the load is said to be linear. On the other hand when various loads are connected in such a way that sine wave is not preserved then the load is said to be a nonlinear load. When the nonlinear loads are connected to the mains, the fundamental sinusoidal characteristics of current will be affected [1]. Thus wide-spread and increasing the usage of the power electronic devices like personal computers, uninterruptible power supply systems (UPS), industrial process controls etc. These non-linear loads draw the distorted voltages and currents that contain the harmonics, from the mains. The equipment that cause the harmonics can be found at various locations from office buildings to the manufacturing industries and cannot be ignored in daily life. The devices that can inject the harmonics in power system include the following:

- Personal computers (PCs)
- Variable and adjustable speed drives
- Electronic lighting ballasts

- Uninterruptable power supply (UPS) systems
- Industrial process controls
- Electronic household appliances
- Medical equipment

1.2 Problem Statement

The harmonics due to increased use of nonlinear loads, are the major sources responsible for poor power quality. Power quality can be defined as the "fitness level of the power that is delivered to the consumers from the main supply under some limitations of voltages, currents and frequency for the proper working of the power system devices". The electrical energy supplied to the consumers must satisfy the proper power quality requirements. If the harmonics are not controlled then they can impact adversely on the normal operation of a distribution power system [2] like they can cause the following:

- Electromagnetic interference to neighbouring communication lines
- Increase power loss
- Shutdowns
- Capacitor failures
- Shortening life span of electrical insulation
- Malfunctioning of the sensitive equipment
- Overheating of the transformer
- Harmonic resonance
- System voltage dips
- AC/DC drives failure

- False tripping of protective relays
- Vibration of rotating machines
- Degradation of Voltage quality
- Malfunctioning of medical equipment
- Overheating of neutral conductors

Every power system device has its own capability to tolerate some amount harmonic current but it is needed to protect the power system devices from excessive amount of harmonic current to avoid the malfunctioning of the device. The most common method for mitigating the harmonics is by using filters. The filters limit the harmonics up to the value that will be accepted by the power system and will not harm the device. Filters can be largely categorized in three types first the passive filters these filters are designed with the different combinations of Resistors(R), inductors(L) and capacitors(C). The implementation of the passive filters for the practical applications has some drawbacks. The system performance will depends on the supply impedance and these are large in size [3] second the active filters these filters uses the power electronic switches consequently they have limited switching frequency[4] and the third type called hybrid filter that shares the advantages of both types of filters passive and active.[5]

1.3 Importance of the work

This research project is about the harmonic current generation and its control for the distribution network. The distortion of voltage and current waveforms is one of the most important issue that is faced by the electric industry today due to the considerable conversion of electrical power from alternating current to other forms of electricity, useful in many applications. In the distribution network the harmonic problem occurs only due to the increase of non-linear loads due to the growing use of power electronic devices and the use of microprocessor controllers. Such equipment creates load generated harmonics throughout the system. The generated

harmonic currents are responsible to disturb the operation of the supply network and also can damage the electrical equipment including the capacitors installed for power factor correction. Active and passive power filters are the effective equipment to limit the harmonic to the allowable frequency band. At present passive power filters are widely used as compared to the active power filters in many areas due to their lower cost, simple structure, simple working and convenient maintenance [6].

1.4 Objectives of the project

The objectives for this study are as follows.

1. To develop a system with three-phase uncontrolled rectifier for harmonic analysis.
2. To design passive power filter for harmonic reduction.
3. To optimize the filter design using genetic algorithm.

1.5 Scope of the work

In this project passive power filters will be investigated and analysed for the mitigation of the harmonics developed in a three phase distribution network feeding by nonlinear loads. Passive power filtering method is preferred because passive power filters are simpler and cheaper than active power filters and also provide an effective way to reduce the voltage and current harmonics. Unlike the active power filters passive power filters not only reduce the harmonics but it can also be used for the compensation of the reactive power at the fundamental frequency. The nonlinear load is represented by a three phase uncontrolled rectifier. This type of nonlinear load has wide applications in a distribution system as well as in industries for the conversion of AC to DC power. Three phase six-pulse rectifier is chosen because for industrial applications it is required to have less DC ripple

voltage and more power handling capability that can be provided by the three phase six pulse rectifier. Optimization technique is used to get the optimum filter design.

1.6 Methodology

For this project a three phase network with a nonlinear load is simulated using MATLAB Simulink than the harmonics at the point of common coupling will be analysed. Then the harmonic distortion indices i.e. THDi and THDv will be compared with the standards. Since the presence of nonlinear load will cause high harmonics to flow through the network, so for the mitigation of these harmonics passive power filter will be designed and then will be optimized using genetic algorithm the code for the genetic algorithm will be implemented using MATLAB m file.

1.7 Thesis Organization

Chapter 1: this chapter discusses about the background and the general idea about the proposed work. The objectives, importance and scope is also discussed in chapter one.

Chapter 2: This chapter contains the literature review including the previous research about the passive power filters, types of the filter, types of harmonics, basic terminologies about filters, harmonic indices and general procedure about genetic optimization algorithm.

Chapter 3: This chapter is about the methodology followed by this project, starting from the basics of single tuned filters, the procedure to design the single tuned filters and at the end of this chapter optimization procedure for the single tuned passive power filters will be described using genetic optimization algorithm.

Chapter 4: This chapter discusses the results before and after the filtration of the harmonics due to three phase uncontrolled rectifier. Harmonic indices including THD_v and THD_i and the power factor will be compared before and after the application of optimum filters.

Chapter 5: This Chapter will conclude the work and will recommend the future work for harmonic mitigation.

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